



# E-Legislative Update

February 15, 2010

We are in the sixth week of the legislative session. The deadline for bills to pass the house of origin is Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

You can [contact your legislator](#) making your position on a bill known. You can do so by writing a letter, sending an e-mail, calling the legislator's Olympia office, or by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.



The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs legislative priorities focus on state budget development and bills that impact the Asian Pacific American community in the areas of education, health care, human services, economic development, and immigration.

The legislature discussed the following bills and issues of interest to the Asian Pacific American community last week.

## Week Five Highlights:

Both the House and Senate convened for long hours, often until midnight or later to pass bills through their chamber.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, the State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council estimated that state revenue decreases have hit bottom. If trends continue, we may see a recovery in revenues in 2012. To view the Council's press release, [click here](#).

On Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of people attended a hearing in House Finance to testify on two bills introduced to raise state revenue:

- **SB 6130** Amending provisions related to Initiative Measure No. 960. This would enable the legislature to pass tax measures by a simple majority the next two years. Currently, Initiative 960 requires a two thirds vote of the legislature to pass tax measures. This is argued to be a barrier to passing bills that would allow the legislature to raise revenues for the state.
- **HB 3176** Increasing state revenues to preserve funding for education, public safety, health care, and safety net services for elderly, disabled, and vulnerable people by preventing abusive tax avoidance transactions, narrowing or eliminating certain tax preferences, and providing equitable tax treatment. This bill closes a number of tax loopholes to raise revenue.

Another bill of note to raise state revenue is **HB 3157** Concerning the state business and occupation tax. This bill extends the business and occupation (B&O) tax to certain out-of-state businesses. Some Washington-based businesses will see a decrease in taxes while out-of-state business will be taxed for business they conduct in Washington.

Highlights of legislative discussion in **EDUCATION**:

- Senate Ways and Means Committee heard **SSB 6562** Regarding higher education accountability and access. This bill would allow Washington State University, University of Washington, and Western Washington University to set their own tuition rates, as long as tuition does not increase over 14 percent in a single year or 9 percent over a 15 year period.
- **HB 2867** Promoting early learning was voted out of House Rules Committee

The following bills passed the House and will be moving on to the Senate:

- **HB 3026** Regarding school district compliance with state and federal civil rights laws
- **HB 3068** Providing access to alternative routes to certification for the recruiting Washington teachers program
- **HB 2731** Creating an early learning program for educationally at-risk children

The following bills passed the Senate and will move on to the House:

- **SB 6798** Implementing the recommendations of the achievement gap oversight and accountability committee
- **SB 6355** Expanding the higher education system upon proven demand
- **SB 6403** Regarding accountability and support for vulnerable students and dropouts
- **SB 6696** Regarding education reform
- **SB 6760** Regarding the basic education instructional allocation distribution formula

Highlights of legislative discussions in the areas of **HEALTH CARE** and **HUMAN SERVICES**:

- **HB 3062** Making the governor the public employer of language access providers is eligible for second reading on the House floor
- **SB 6726** Establishing a work group on language access services (formerly entitled Making the governor the public employer of language access providers)
- **HJR 4220** Amending the state Constitution so that the provision relating to bailable crimes by sufficient sureties is modified passed the House and will be moving on to the Senate. This bill is in response to the Maurice Clemmons case, where Clemmons shot and killed four police officers in the Tacoma area. Supporters of the bill argue that if a judge is given the ability to deny bail for a crime Clemmons previously committed, this may have prevented him from shooting the officers.

Highlights of legislative discussion on **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** include:

- **HB 1096** Enhancing small business participation in state purchasing passed the House of Representatives and will move on to the Senate.
- **HB 1830** Establishing business definitions for public contracting passed the House and is referred to Senate Economic Development, Trade, and Innovation Committee.

Highlights of legislative discussion on **IMMIGRATION** include:

- **SB 6330** Human trafficking posters passed the Senate. This bill would allow the Department of Transportation and partner organizations to post signs in rest areas that would help provide assistance to human trafficking victims.

You can find more information through our e-legislative update and Web site on committee hearings, bills, and other events of interest throughout the legislative session. Our e-legislative update provides a general overview of a few bills of interest to the Asian Pacific American community while our [Web site](#) hosts a more extensive [list of bills](#) for those community members seeking more information.

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Below are some scheduled meetings and hearings that might be of interest to you. Many committee agendas have yet to be established. The House and the Senate are busily trying to pass bills by Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. For bills that pass a chamber, the bill must be referred to a committee in the opposite chamber. This causes a delay in committee scheduling.

## Education

### Education

**2/17/10 1:30 p.m.**

#### **House Full Committee**

House Hearing Rm A  
John L. O'Brien Building  
Olympia, WA

#### **Public Hearing:**

1. [ESSB 6403](#) - Regarding accountability and support for vulnerable students and dropouts. (If measure is referred to committee.)

### Early Learning & K-12 Education

**2/18/10 10:00 a.m.**

#### **Senate Hearing Rm 1**

J.A. Cherberg Building  
Olympia, WA

#### **Public Hearing:**

1. [SHB 2801](#) - Regarding antiharassment strategies in public schools. (If measure is referred to committee.)
2. [HB 2904](#) - Concerning the powers and duties of the office of the education ombudsman.
3. [2SHB 3026](#) - Regarding school district compliance with state and federal civil rights laws. (If measure is referred to committee.)
4. [SHB 2834](#) - Regarding gang and hate group activity at schools and school activities. (If measure is referred to committee.)

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## Health Care and Human Services

### Health & Long-Term Care

**2/18/10 10:00 a.m.**

#### **Senate Full Committee**

Senate Hearing Rm 4  
J.A. Cherberg Building  
Olympia, WA

#### **Public Hearing:**

1. [SHB 2706](#) - Concerning exemption from immunization. (If measure is referred to committee.)

**Information is current as of: February 14, 2010.**

**To find out more information on a particular bill, please visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov>**

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**CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.**

To receive more electronic updates, visit us at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>. To unsubscribe, [click here](#).